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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	HIRAMOTO, et al.	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	10/848,742	Group Art Unit:	2818
Filed:	May 17, 2004	Docket No.:	10873.792USD1
Title:	MAGNETO-RESISTIVE ELEMENT		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Amendment, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 10, 2004.

By: Peggy Kerkhove
Name: Peggy Kerkhove

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner. Enclosed for the Examiner's information is a copy of the Japanese Office Action. At least some of the references were recently cited in a Japanese Office Action mailed August 11, 2004.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449. Also, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) or §1.97(d), the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application within three months of filing this statement. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d), the undersigned hereby also certifies that each item listed on the enclosed Form 1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. Accordingly, no patent term adjustment is due for the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of any foreign patent document or "Other Document" listed on the Form 1449 is enclosed, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2). Because this application was filed after June 30, 2003, copies of the U.S. Patents and U.S. patent publications listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are not provided.

A concise explanation of the relevance of each non-English language document or other information is as follows (37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)):

US 5,966,012 is an English equivalent of JP 11-161919, US 6,549,384 is an English equivalent of JP 2000-40209, US 6,338,899 is an English equivalent of JP 2000-137906, US 6,172,858 is an English equivalent of JP6-325329 and US 6,051,309 is an English equivalent of JP 10-188235. Applicant previously cited US 6,051,309 in an IDS filed on May 17, 2004. The journal articles cited in the Japanese Office Action were also previously cited by the Applicant in the IDS filed May 17, 2004. English abstracts have been included for all other Japanese references.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612)332.5300

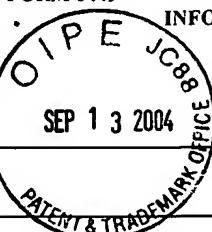
By: 
Curtis B. Hamre
Reg. No.: 29,165

Dated: September 10, 2004

DPM/CBH/pjk

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

FORM 1449*  INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)			Docket Number: 10873.792USD1	Application Number: 10/848,742
			Applicant: HIRAMOTO, et al.	
			Filing Date: May 17, 2004	Group Art Unit: 2818

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,966,012	October, 1999	Parkin			
	6,172,858	January, 2001	Yoda, et al.			
	6,338,899	January, 2002	Fukuzawa, et al.			
	6,549,384	April, 2003	Saito, et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION
						YES
	6-325329	November, 1994	Japan			
	8-115511	May, 1996	Japan			Abstract
	10-41561	February, 1998	Japan			Abstract
	10-79306	March, 1998	Japan			Abstract
	11-161919	June, 1999	Japan			
	2000-40209	February, 2000	Japan			
	2000-137906	May, 2000	Japan			
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						

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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	

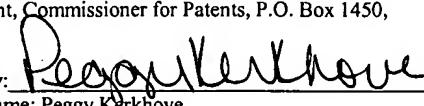


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HIRAMOTO, et al. Examiner: Unknown
Serial No.: 10/848,742 Group Art Unit: 2818
Filed: May 17, 2004 Docket: 18073.792USD1
Confirmation No.: 7331 Notice of Allow. n/a
Due Date: n/a Date:
Title: MAGNETO-RESISTIVE ELEMENT

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 10, 2004.

By: 
Name: Peggy Kerkhove

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

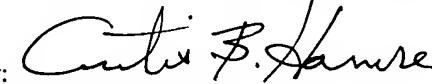
Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 7 Reference(s), Copy of Japanese Office Action
- Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

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Reg. No.: 29,165
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